

Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities

2012 Annual Program Performance Report Summary

The Nebraska Council works to promote the independence, integration and productivity of people with developmental disabilities. The Council identifies and addresses pressing needs, including inequities in employment, education, housing, transportation and health care. In 2012, the Nebraska Council received \$477,688 in federal funding authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Act to support its work. It has 23 members appointed by the Governor with 60% of these members being people with developmental disabilities or family members. In 2012, the Nebraska Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities supported a number of activities including the following:

- Student actors with disabilities presenting a play on inclusion and acceptance at nine schools in the Omaha metro area to a total of 1,213 students.
- "Fidelity audit" training for the eight Project Search sites funded by Vocational Rehabilitation. These employment training projects have been very successful in Nebraska with 60% of the participating students finding employment. As the program expands across the state, it is important to closely follow the values and practices developed to insure continued success
- Three workshops for employers to address the misperception that persons with disabilities require significant accommodations. Seven of the businesses targeted for these workshops eventually hired individuals with developmental disabilities.
- A study to establish a baseline rate of the use of restraints and psychoactive medications with persons with developmental disabilities in community-based settings. Data revealed that over 53% of the population received at least one psychoactive medication. The Council will continue to review the findings and recommendations and work to further address the concerns raised.
- Expanded recreation opportunities in Kearney by training organizations on inclusive practices and making individuals aware of activities in their communities. The Kearney City Manager and other key city officials met with the project coordinator to plan the building of an inclusive playground and identified monies from donors and the city to fund it.
- Made a comprehensive package of transition related information materials available to individuals, families and professionals on a website and in print. The Developmental Disability Division is now including a copy of the booklet in the letter sent to families at the time an individual is determined eligible for services.
- Through their network of statewide regional councils, awareness activities were sponsored in communities around Nebraska. People were provided support to attend 13 professional trainings to increase their skills. Individuals with developmental disabilities and family members attended 26 different training activities, including disability specific conventions, self-advocacy conferences, and youth transition meetings.

If you have additional questions or comments about the Council's activities or would like to receive a copy of the complete annual report, please contact:

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